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Today's Important News

Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects worth over Rs 7400 Cr in Uttar Pradesh.



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1. Foreign Secretary Shringla and Nepalese leaders discuss boundary issues

- Foreign Secretary Harshvardhan Shringla met his Nepalese counterpart Bharat Paudyal and discussed various aspects of Nepal-India bilateral relations. During their meeting, the two Foreign Secretaries discussed and reviewed various aspects of the bilateral ties between the two countries
- Foreign Secretary Shringla called on President Bidya Devi Bhandari and conveyed greetings on behalf of the President of India. They discussed the close relationship between both countries and ways to further strengthen it.
- During his call on Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli, Mr Shringla conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Shringla apprised the Prime Minister of his productive meetings with Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal.



Foot Notes:

About Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

Prime minister: K. P. Sharma Oli

President: Bidya Devi Bhandari
Currency: Nepalese rupee

2. Scotland becomes 1st nation to make sanitary products free

- Scottish parliament has passed landmark legislation that made period products like sanitary pads and tampons free of cost to those people who need them
- Bill is titled as ‘Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill’ and was passed unanimously, making Scotland the first country to take such a step.
- Aim: Tackling period poverty and ending the silence and stigma



Foot Notes:

About Scotland:

Capital: Edinburgh

Currency: Pound sterling

3. India signs MoU with Finland for Environment and biodiversity conservation

- India signed MoU with Finland for developing cooperation in the field of Environment protection and biodiversity conservation.
- MoU will advance both nations partnership and support, exchange best practices in areas like prevention of Air and water pollution; Waste management; Promotion of circular economy, low-carbon solutions and sustainable management of natural resources including forests; Climate change; Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources; etc.



Foot Notes:

About Finland:

Capital: Helsinki

Prime minister: Sanna Marin

Currency: Euro

President: Sauli Niinistö

4. Nitin Gadkari inaugurates Highway projects worth over Rs 7400 Cr in Uttar Pradesh

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 16 National Highway projects worth 7477 crore rupees in Uttar Pradesh yesterday.

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also present at the virtual function. These road projects worth 505 kilometers will enhance better connectivity, convenience and economic growth in the state.
- Speaking on the occasion, Mr Gadkari said that National Highways works worth two lakh crore rupees are being undertaken in UP. Thanking the Central government, the Chief Minister said that National Highways works done in the state in the last 6 years is more than what was done in 65 years after independence.



Foot Notes:

About Uttar Pradesh:

Chief Minister: Yogi Adityanath

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Capital: Lucknow

Union Minister: Nitin Gadkari



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5. UNDP and Invest India launch SDGs Investor Map for India

- United Nations Development Programme, UNDP and Invest India have launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Investor Map for India. It laid out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas in six critical SDG enabling sectors, that can help the country push forward on the trajectory of Sustainable Development.



- Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Bagla, CEO of Invest India said, India occupies a key role in determining the success of the SDGs, globally. Shoko Noda, Resident Representative of UNDP India said, Investing in the SDGs is crucial to 'Building Back Better' and making the economy and our societies more resilient and sustainable.

Foot Notes:

About UNDP:

Headquarters: New York, New York, United States

Head: Achim Steiner

Founded: 22 November 1965, United States

6. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu calls for mass movement to promote digital literacy

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu today called for a mass movement to promote digital literacy in the country. Virtually launching Adi Shankara Digital Academy at Kaladi in Kerala, the birthplace of Adi Shankaracharya, Mr Naidu said that information is the main commodity in the present-day knowledge society and whoever has quick access to information has the advantage.
- Mr Naidu said that the global EdTech sector is attracting billions of dollars of investments and offers a huge opportunity to not only learners but to education entrepreneurs as well.
- The Vice President said, Online classes facilitate better teacher-student interaction through chat groups, video meetings, voting and document sharing, but it cannot replace the personal touch and warmth of a classroom.
- Calling for putting in place an equitable digital ecosystem in the country, the Vice President said the Governments and private sector need to work on appropriate models for collective effort to enable a digital India which gives every citizen her or his due.



Foot Notes:

About Kerala:

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan

Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan

7. Railway launches digitised online Human Resource Management System (HRMS)

- Indian Railway has rolled out fully digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS) to improve efficiency and productivity of Railway system
- HRMS: High thrust project for Indian Railways to leverage improved productivity & employee satisfaction.
- This will create a big impact on the functioning of all the employees, making them more tech savvy.
- HRMS comprises of:
 - Employee Self Service (ESS) module
 - Provident Fund (PF) Advance module
 - Settlement module



Foot Notes:

About Indian Railways:

Minister: Piyush Goyal

Chairman: VK Yadav

8. Films Division to showcase 'Lok Virasat' festival of films on folk art & painting from 27th november

- Films Division will showcase 'Lok Virasat' a festival of films on folk art and painting starting from today on its website and YouTube Channel.
- As part of 'art-outreach' initiative, Films Division has been presenting select package of films on Indian art and heritage as curated online festivals during the last few months. After the overwhelming response to Raagotsav and Nrityanjali, festivals focusing on Indian classical music and dance respectively, an exclusive bouquet of documentary films on folk art and paintings - Lok Virasat - is being showcased, between Friday and Sunday.



Films to be streamed:

- Bastar-Rhythm of Progress
- The Kingdom of God
- Bhavai-Fading Memories (Gujarat Art)
- Naman-Khele (ancient folk art of Maharashtra)
- Sahi Jata

- Therukoothu: Dancing For Life (old Tamil folk art)

9. Sports Ministry recognizes Archery Association of India as National Sports Federation

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has granted the annual recognition to Archery Association of India as a National Sports Federation (NSF).
- AAI's recognition was withdrawn by the ministry on December 7, 2012 on account of its failure to conduct elections in accordance with the sports code despite the directions of the High Court.
- This comes after AAI's independent elections and revocation of suspension by the World Archery and Indian Olympic Association.
- The recognition will be valid for one year.
- AAI president Arjun Munda welcomed the decision and said that it will start a new chapter in Indian archery.



Foot Notes:

About AAI(Archery Association of India):

President: Arjun Munda

Founded: 8 August 1973

Sport: Archery

Headquarters: New Delhi

10. Former Sudan Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi dies of COVID-19

- Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudan's last democratically elected prime minister and leader of the country's largest political party, died of COVID-19 Thursday in a hospital in the United Arab Emirates, his party said. He was 84
- Al-Mahdi was taken to Abu Dhabi for treatment in early November. His body was expected to arrive in Sudan for burial Friday morning, the National Ummah Party tweeted. It had announced al-Mahdi tested positive for the coronavirus on Oct. 29.
- Al-Mahdi was overthrown in a 1989 Islamist-backed coup that brought longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir to power. Al-Mahdi's party allied with Sudan's pro-democracy uprising that led the military to overthrow al-Bashir in April 2019.
- Al-Mahdi was born in December 1935 in Khartoum's sister city of Omdurman. He was the great-grandson of Mohammad Ahmad al-Mahdi, a religious leader whose movement waged a successful war against Egyptian-Ottoman rule in Sudan in the second half of the 19th century



Foot Notes:

About Sudan:

Capital: Khartoum

Currency: Sudanese pound

President: Omar al-Bashir

About United Arab Emirates:

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

President: Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan



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